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The Republican has no fault to find with any man for being a radical, or a progressive, or an insurgent, or whatever he may choose to call himself. That is his business. And in adopting that program he is acting strictly within his rights. The privileges of free thought and free speech are the most sacred privileges known to man; and without their preservation our boasted American liberty would be a hollow mockery.

But the Republican does protest against thoughtless and unpatriotic argument. If the statements of the insurgent brethren were to be taken at their face value by men unacquainted with the facts, what would be the reputation of this country?

It is no uncommon thing to read in the radical press that the government of our cities is in the hands of thieves and potters; that human liberty is dead; that there is a corrupt partnership between "big business" and the federal government; that the courts hold out no hope of justice; that public men are bought and sold like sheep in the markets; that our citizenship has been robbed of its rights; that the president of the United States is a dictator and a tyrant; that the banking interests of this country have formed themselves into a gigantic money trust; that robbery is rife, justice is dead and, by implication, if not by direct statement, that the American system of government is a fraud and a failure.

Now, this picture is not overdrawn. In fact these statements could be multiplied many times over and the assertions regarding the reckless charges of insurgency would still fall short of the whole truth.

Read any insurgent democratic paper and you will find these statements verified to the letter. If you believe what you read you will inevitably come to the conclusion that the system of government founded by Washington, Jefferson, Hamilton, Madison and Franklin has utterly failed of its purpose.

Now, any man has the perfect right to believe in the principles of direct legislation. Any state has a perfect right to adopt the direct legislation program. But where is the sense or justice in flaunting insult to the system of government that has made this nation the richest, the freest, and the most powerful the world has ever known?

We may rant all we please about the "oppression" of the common people. The fact remains that the common people, so-called, have more comforts, more luxuries, and a broader freedom than the world has ever known before.

We may talk all we please about the death of opportunity. But the fact remains that the sunlight of opportunity lights the pathway of every boy in America.

What an insult it is to the founders of our institutions to talk about the "privileged few," when nine-tenths of the richest men in the United States passed their youth in poverty. What of Andrew Carnegie, Henry Clay Frick, Philip Armour, John V. Farwell, Jacob Schiff, Henry Stillman and scores of others? What of John D. Rockefeller, even, reputed to be the richest man in the world, yet who in his young manhood worked for \$10 a week? The insurgent argument sounds well in political campaigns but the truth is it will not stand the light of facts.

And under the laws that are now derided, the United States have grown in population from 3,000,000 people to 100,000,000 people. Our wealth has grown to thirteen hundred thousand millions of dollars—an

amount utterly beyond the comprehension of the human mind. The American mechanic lives better, has more comforts—more luxuries, even—than had the kings and princes of the Middle Ages. And better than all else, there is not a position of political preferment to which the poorest boy in America may not aspire. And, if these insurgents know anything about American history, they know that the poor boys generally get those positions, too.

What else have we done in this country? We freed three millions of slaves; we extended our domain until it embraces in continental America 3,700,000 square miles of land; we gave to the world the miracles of invention that have driven civilization forward a thousand years; we established a free school system such as the world had never known, we have thrown the mantle of human freedom over millions of the oppressed of other lands; we have set the pace for the world in philanthropy; and we have demonstrated the greatest truth of which the race has ever dreamed—the success of popular government. But all this is flouted by insurgency. Insurgency says opportunity is dead. Insurgency says the money trust is supreme. Insurgency says muck raking is about the most profitable and the most honorable work in which men can engage. Insurgency says our government is honeycombed with corruption, that human liberty has been strangled by the "interests."

It is a shameful attitude. The very men who owe everything they have in the world to the institutions under which they live, are deriding those institutions as corrupt and worthless. It is precisely as though a man were wearing a handsome suit of clothes that had been given him without a cent of cost; and then went about maliciously deriding the tailor by whom the clothes were made.

Taft's Master Stroke.
There are two conspicuous features about the latest developments in the passport matter. One is the absolute and unequivocal insincerity of the democratic members of congress; and the other is the fact that President Taft, though in no sense a politician, yet has succeeded in "putting one over" on the democratic contingent in this instance. In anticipating the work of the house of representatives and in paying the way for the abrogation of the Russian treaty of 1832 not only has Mr. Taft done the country a signal service but he has gracefully shoved the democratic majority into the hole this same majority had dug for him.

A few days ago The Republican said editorially that Senator Culberson and the greater number of the house democrats did not care a bauble about the Jewish citizens of the United States and the indignities they had suffered at the hands of the Russian government. This paper said at the time the Sulzer resolution was passed that almost its sole object was the manufacture of campaign material, and now that President Taft has stepped in and by a single stroke accomplished all the congress could have hoped to accomplish, and done it in a way that is at once statesmanlike and diplomatic, Culberson and his confreres have raised a howl like that which emanates from an angry youngster when deprived of its favorite tin rattle.

"The president is trying to steal the democratic thunder," is the cry. "Whatever distinction comes from the settlement of the passport question must go to the democrats," is another plaintive note heard above the chorus of chagrin and disappointment. And with it all there is never a word of satisfaction that our Jewish citizens are about to be accorded their rights. Never a word about the vindication of the United States government. Never a word about the national prestige that will come from Mr. Taft's splendid piece of work. It is all a question of partisanship. It is peanut politics of the cheapest variety. The democrats were playing battle-dore and shuttlecock with the rights of our citizens and they were doing it solely and simply for partisan advantage.

It certainly seems this matter is too important to be handled in that way. The Republican would have been satisfied with the passage of either the Sulzer or the Culberson resolutions. It is eminently satisfied that the matter is to be settled by executive order. If the democrats could have secured an advantage from the one course, or if the president can secure an advantage from the other, it seems to this paper, of secondary importance. The main thing is that the honor of the United States be maintained and the rights of their citizens be protected.

One is tempted to inquire if there is nothing too sacred or too important to be used for partisan advantage. Here was a situation in which the most sacred rights of men were invaded, and these men are citizens of the United States of America. They are entitled to the protection

of the government of their country. That protection has been accorded to the fullest extent by the action of the president. The result has been accomplished. The best thing has been done that could be done. And yet in the face of all these facts, the democratic majority is ready to sacrifice all that has been gained in order to deny to the president the just credit for his splendid work. It is pitifully small. It is pitifully mean. And it is all the more small and mean because the men at the head of it are the men entrusted with the discharge of the highest character of public duty.

Culberson has showed himself a statesman of a mighty cheap order. What are the rights of the Jewish citizens to him, when compared with the aggrandizement of one Culberson? Less than nothing. Sulzer was probably honest. The guarding of the rights of our citizens was probably with him the first consideration. But Culberson has shown himself pitifully small and pitifully weak. And he is the man who was once prominently mentioned as a possible candidate for the exalted office of president of the United States.

If it costs five dollars to transport a load of farm produce over a given piece of bad road, and only two dollars over the same piece of road after it has been improved, that is a saving of three dollars the load. Now, if 20 farmers use that road once a week, there is a saving of \$60 a week, and \$60 a week means \$3120 a year for the people of one small community, and all because of road improvement. Then, multiply that by the number of such communities in Arizona where bad roads are the rule, and the importance of the road improvement question becomes apparent. These matters will be discussed at the meeting of the Good Roads association. It will pay everybody to attend that meeting.

"The most vicious demagogue is one who sounds a false alarm that strikes at the very foundation of government, and destroys, without just cause, the sentiment of the public as to the operation of the law or the good faith and efficiency of our public servants," said J. F. Cleveland in outlining the work of the Phoenix charter commission. And he might have added that Arizona is unhappy in possessing more than its share of that particular kind of demagogue.

The men you see going about the streets with that harried look on their faces are not anticipating arrest as dynamite conspirators. They are merely trying to select Christmas presents for their wives.

If it's all the same to the weather department the people of Phoenix will be perfectly satisfied to cut out those near-winter sketches for the future. They are too much like the real thing for comfort.

Uncle Sam's corn and wheat crops for the current year are worth considerably more than two thousand millions of dollars. Anybody who supposed the old gentleman was "broke" is entitled to another guess.

Those fearsome sounds you heard last night were not portents of disaster. They were merely expressions of the exuberance of the Phoenix Nest of Owls in their annual convale.

With an army of 2150 youngsters in the public schools the future of Phoenix is reasonably safe from an educational standpoint, at least.

Wonder if those indicted meat packers still have an abiding faith in the justice and effectiveness of our jury system?

Good roads will mean millions of dollars to Arizona. Help the work along.

DAILY DOINGS AT
THE BOARD OF TRADE

Badge Worn By Delegates at Southwestern Good Roads Association. Registration by States at Commercial Rooms.

It is amazing to one who has not kept track of the registrations at the board of trade, how many states are represented in the book of names on the counter in the outer office. The list for two days of ordinary registrations, read like this and many states had a number of citizens from various parts so that that particular portion of the country was represented more than once. Oregon, Michigan, California, Indiana, Texas, Kentucky, South Dakota, Illinois, Maine and Massachusetts.

A matter which has been exercising the fertile brain of Harry Welch for several days was a badge for the delegates to the Good Roads conference to wear. The affair was left to Harry and Harry is mighty busy

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ARIZONA
CALIFORNIA

Delegate.

DELEGATES
GATHERING
Good Representation From
All QuartersA TRANSCONTINENTAL LINE
There Will Be Strong Rivalry for Location of
What Is Hoped Will Be
a National Highway.

That California is thoroughly alive to the importance of the good roads convention to be held in this city today and tomorrow, is indicated in the fact that Governor Johnson of that state yesterday appointed additional delegates to take the places of those previously appointed, but unavoidably prevented from attending. The fact was made known by the following telegram to Governor Sloan:

"State Capitol, Sacramento, Cal., December 19.

"Hon. Richard E. Sloan, Governor of Arizona, Phoenix, Ariz.:
"Governor Johnson today appointed the following additional delegates to represent California at the Southwestern Interstate Good Roads convention and to take the places of those heretofore named, who are unable to personally attend: Byron Naylor, Winfield Hogaboom, P. W. Gavin, J. K. Cassidy, Rufus Choate, Clark Brady, W. W. Whitson of San Diego; W. B. Clancy, Carl S. Tuttle, Riverside; Mont P. Chubb, George Elder, Redlands.

"ALEXANDER McCATSE,
"Secretary."

The convention will assemble at 10 o'clock in the legislative assembly hall at the capitol building, and it is a safe prediction that the chamber will be well filled. There are eighty-four accredited delegates, twenty-four from each of the three states, California, New Mexico and Arizona, appointed by the respective governors. It was feared for a time that many of the delegates would give proxies and stay at home, as is too often the case in movements designed for public welfare rather than private profit, but it appeared yesterday that most of the delegates will be present. Anyhow, the action of Governor Johnson indicated that California proposed to be represented in full, and it is known that Arizona will be.

In addition to these official delegates, there are numerous unofficial representatives from various places coming just to demonstrate the enthusiasm in the movement and the importance that is given it all over the southwest. J. J. Birdo, chairman of the democratic territorial central committee, placed his room in the Hotel Adams, No. 140, at the disposal of the delegates that began assembling last night as a sort of downtown headquarters. Dell M. Potter of Clifton, a big one in the road game, appeared on the late train from the south last night, and W. T. Webb had stayed over from the political festa to participate in the coming conference. Earlier in the evening Dr. L. E. Wightman, J. J. Keegan, Judge J. F. Hechtman, L. L. Henry and M. L. Naquin of Globe, had arrived at the Hotel Adams via automobile, and were ushered to room 140. Shortly thereafter came Fred C. Colter of Apache county, who had the distinguished honor of being beaten for the state senate by the chairman of the republican state committee, J. L. Hubbell. He was accompanied by Gust Becker of Springerville, and regardless of politics or religion, they are good roads men. These three gentlemen have been preceded in the council by C. D. Hamilton, C. T. Hawkins and C. W. Braden, all recently from Los Angeles, though Mr. Braden claims Minnesota as his home. This trio is engaged in making a road map of Arizona for the Arizona Good Roads association. They arrived from Los Angeles two or three days ago, then went to Globe, from where they have just returned.

Yesterday afternoon there arrived

also the advance guard of the California delegation, consisting of J. H. Wachtel, C. B. Perry, R. B. Moore, R. Reading, R. H. Clark, all from El Centro.

It would be a very unnatural gathering if there were not some selfish interest to be expressed in the convention, for primarily every human being is first looking for Number One. It is not conceived that there can be a dissenting voice as to the main purpose of the convention—the organization of a tri-state association, and the encouragement of good roads in every possible way. But roads cannot go everywhere all at once, and there is apt to be some rivalry as to the influence of the convention on various subjects, particularly that of a transcontinental route, concerning which there is much interest.

It was understood last night that an effort will be made to secure the convention's decision on a general route for such a road across Arizona. It was also understood that the issue was to be whether the association would favor a route that practically paralleled the main line of the Santa Fe or whether it would favor a route west of Phoenix practically identical with the well known road racing course, and east of Phoenix via Roosevelt, Globe, Safford, Solomonville, Clifton, up the Blue to Springerville and then into New Mexico. In other words, the north and the south will both be a little jealous of their interests, though both will be in accord on general principles.

Passenger rate clerks are engaged on a big work connected with the preparation of tariffs conforming to the requirements of the Interstate Commerce Commission that passenger rates must not exceed the mileage. In other words, if the rate is 24 cents it must not be made 25 cents.

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